

# The Province

## **Ucluelet gets noticed: LIVABILITY AWARD: Island town makes short list; [Final Edition]**

**The Province**. Vancouver, B.C.: Sep 24, 2006. pg. A.24

**Full Text** (227 words)

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The tiny Vancouver Island community of Ucluelet is one of the world's best places to live among communities with less than 20,000 people, according to an international competition.

St. Walburg, Sask., is the only other Canadian city among eight finalists in the International Award for Livable Communities competition, which is endorsed by the United Nations Environment Program.

Ucluelet takes its name from the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation phrase, "Yu-clutl-ahts," meaning "the people with a good landing place for canoes."

For decades, Ucluelet was a good landing place for fishermen. Add forestry and you have the two mainstays of the Ucluelet economy for as long as most can remember. But these industries have waned and now tourism is the bright light of the economy. Salmon fishing, hiking, cycling, kayaking, surfing, float-plane and boat tours, whale-watching, storm-watching and eco-touring are popular activities.

The livability award is handed out based on a number of considerations, including a town's quality of life as created by its environmental practices, its preservation of heritage, its community sustainability and its ability to plan for the future.

St. Walburg qualified due to its recreational facilities and its sound environmental planning practices.

Winners will be announced in Hangzhou, China, after presentations by each nominee at ceremonies taking place Nov. 9 to 13. St. Walburg will also compete for a \$20,000 bursary that helps fund a town project.